

Let the Living Waters Flow! Friends Serving God's Purposes Annual Report May 2012 - April 2013

Visitation/Living Water

“Let the Living Waters Flow! Friends Serving God’s Purposes” was the theme of local events in the Section of the Americas for 2012-2013, as a continuation of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit from the 6th World Conference. This theme is deeply spiritual and a call for renewal. The Living Water is also a practical expression of the ecological concerns of Friends worldwide, recognizing water as a precious and increasingly scarce resource. Local gatherings took place in 16 states across the U.S., Bolivia, Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Speakers came from nine Yearly Meetings in Britain, Canada, Cuba, Guatemala, Ireland, Kenya and the USA.

These ministers have crossed theological, cultural, economic and community borders and have challenged and empowered Friends to live out their faith. Hundreds of Friends have been introduced to the Friends World Committee and encouraged to think deeply about what it means to be faithful in the world. More details are available on our website, at <http://fwccamericas.org/LivingWater.shtml>

FWCC also offers scholarship assistance for Friends to follow leadings to travel in the ministry in ways that bridge yearly meeting boundaries, theological differences, varieties of worship style and differences in language and culture. Get the application at http://fwccamericas.org/about_us/schol_grants.shtml

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

26 teen Friends from nine countries in the Americas, Europe and the Middle East plus four adult leaders from the U.S., Guatemala and Ireland returned safely but **NOT** unchanged from the 2012 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage held in Britain, Netherlands and Belgium. The program is deep in the planning of a 2014 Pilgrimage to be hosted by the Andean Friends in Peru and Bolivia. We are working carefully and prayerfully to construct the first QYP experience to be held entirely in Evangelical Yearly Meetings as well as the first Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in South America. Read more at <http://fwccamericas.org/QYP-Andes.shtml>

Wider Quaker Fellowship

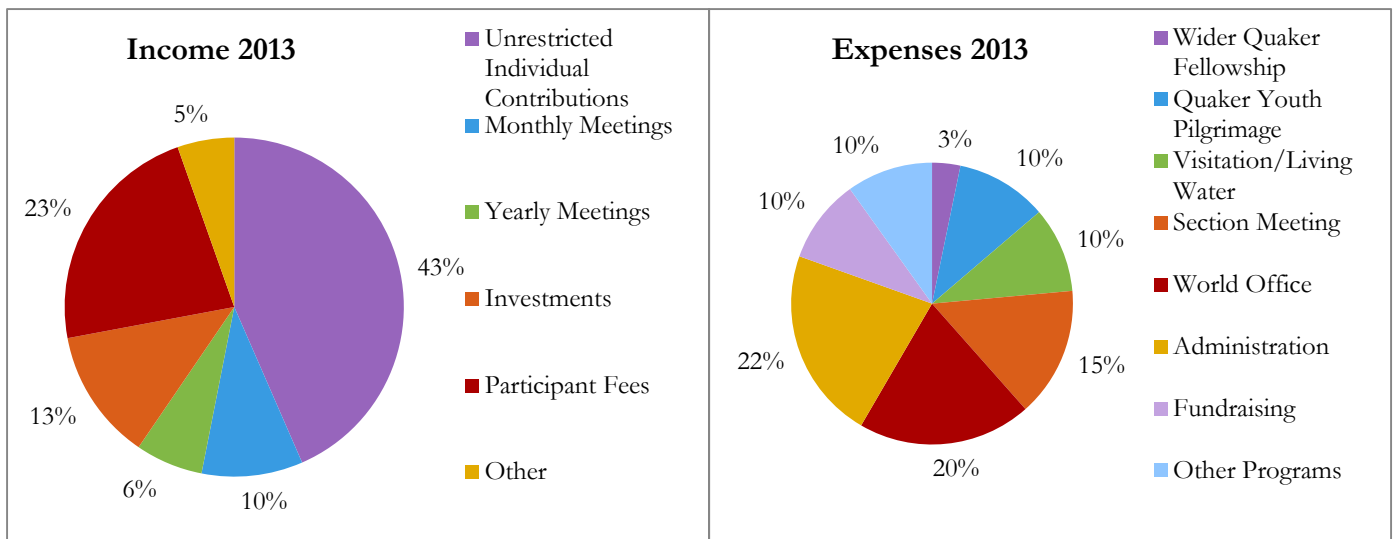
The Wider Quaker Fellowship has published five new pamphlets in English and two in Spanish on www.VoicesofFriends.org. The latest, *Being Salt and Light*, contains excerpts from most of the plenary speeches given at the 2012 World Conference of Friends in Kenya, selected especially for the Wider Quaker Fellowship audience. The full text and audio recordings plus a video documentary are available at the Conference website, www.saltandlight2012.org.

Administration/Governance

The meeting of Representatives of the Section of the Americas was held in good order in March 2013 in Morgantown, Indiana. With the members of the Central Executive Committee present, there were Friends from 14 countries and 45 yearly meetings present. The Section has established program and administrative priorities, a workplan and budget for 2013-2015. One administrative priority is working toward full integration of committees in terms of religious practice, age, race, gender and language. The next full meeting of Representatives in the Section of the Americas will be held in 2015. The next International Representative Meeting (formerly known as Triennials) will be held in 2016 in Arequipa, Peru. More information is available at www.fwccamericas.org or www.facebook.com/fwccamericas.

Financial Report

The most recent audited financial statements for fiscal year 2013 are available on our website at <http://fwccamericas.org/donate/index.shtml>. We are pleased to have received a clean audit opinion for the year. Below is a simple graphic representation of our income and expenses for fiscal year 2013.



NEW! Section Consultations for 2014

In a departure from the tradition of holding an annual section meeting in March, the Section of the Americas will offer four open consultations between February and April 2014 in El Salvador, California, Bolivia and North Carolina. Continuing with the theme *Let the Living Water Flow!*, all four conferences will offer workshops for Friends to develop our intercultural communication skills for intra-Quaker dialogue and our everyday lives, and for supporting Quaker leadership in the 21st century. Additional workshops, specific to the different locations, will include topics such as Quaker history and identity, conflict resolution, the environment and service project opportunities.

All four weekend-long, residential conferences will include worship, plenary addresses and small group discussions in addition to the workshops. Each consultation will also aim for intervisitation by Friends from outside the general area or country. A study book will be ready by the end of 2013. All Friends are invited to participate. Online registration will open later this year.